

**DEDICATED PROCESSOR FOR EFFICIENT  
PROCESSING OF DOCUMENTS ENCODED IN A MARKUP LANGUAGE**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A dedicated processor for efficient processing of documents encoded in a markup language, such as XML. The dedicated processor is capable of performing traditional parsing, transformation and manipulation processes on the document. The special purpose processor frees a general purpose processor to perform other tasks, resulting in an increase in system performance. In one embodiment, the dedicated processor includes a general purpose processor and suitable software which is provided in addition to the general purpose processor which has been traditionally used for processing. In such an embodiment, the dedicated processor may be implemented in a multi-processor system. In another embodiment, the dedicated processor is implemented in special purpose hardware, e.g. as an integrated circuit embodied in silicon in one or more chips. In either embodiment, the dedicated processor may be provided to offload processing locally or remotely.